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NPIC/R-884/64

October 1964



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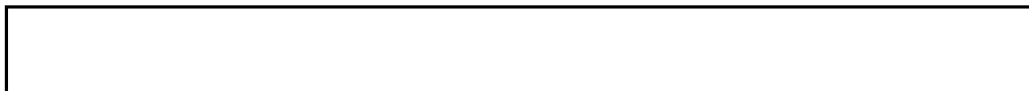
COMPARATIVE STUDY OF NEW SSM LAUNCH AREA, PLESETSK ICBM COMPLEX, USSR



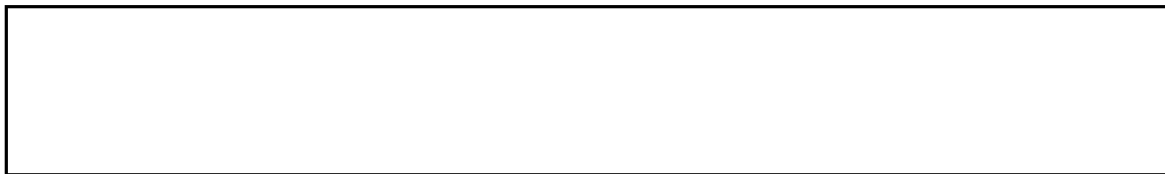
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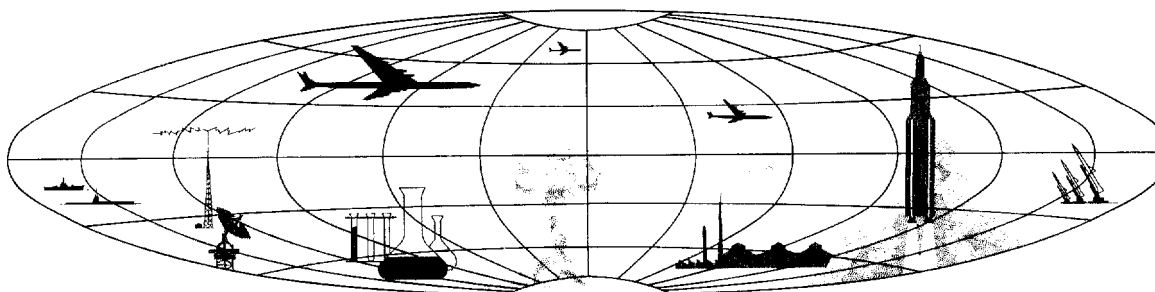
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INTRODUCTION

This report provides general comparative information about a new surface-to-surface missile (SSM) launch area at the Plesetsk ICBM Complex, Launch Site 5C1 at Kapustin Yar/Vladimirovka Missile Test Center (KY/VMTC), and the IRBM launch complex which

was established near Guanajay, Cuba. This material is summarized in Table 1.

Detailed information on 15 of the 16 deployed IRBM soft sites is contained in a number of previously published NPIC reports. 1-12/

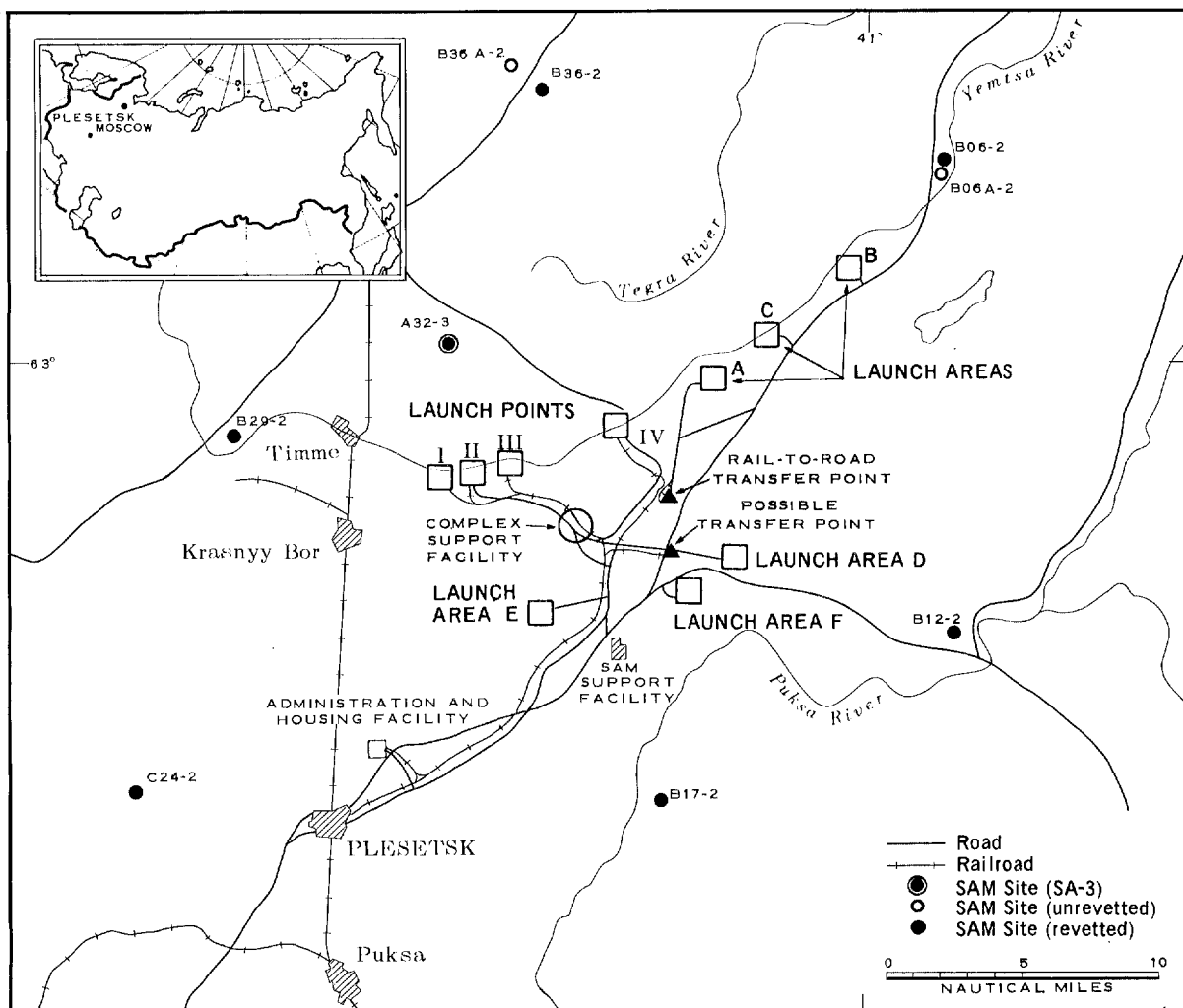


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF LAUNCH AREA F, PLESETSK.

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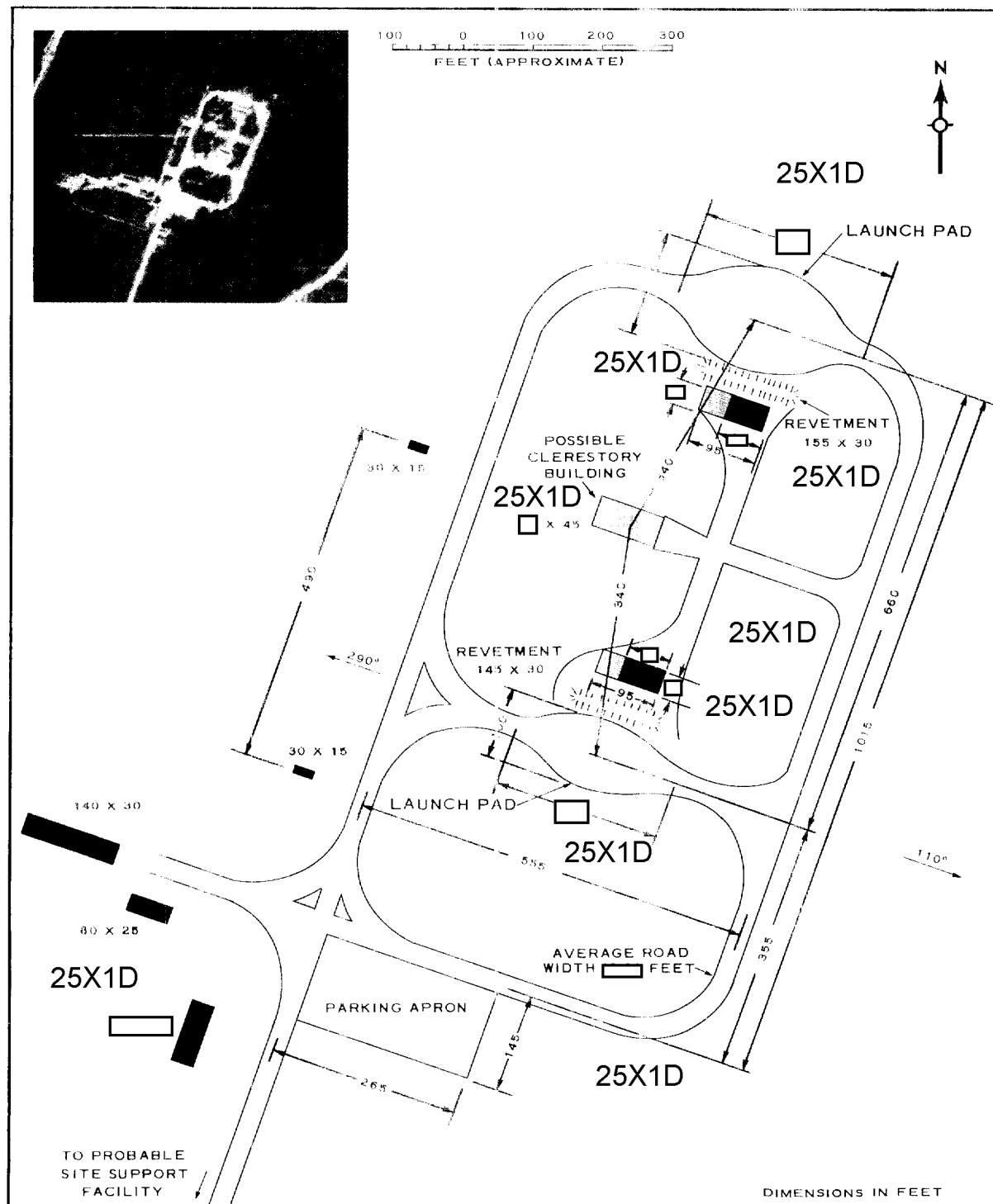


FIGURE 2. NEW SSM LAUNCH SITE, PLESETSK.

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NEW SSM LAUNCH AREA, PLESETSK

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The new SSM launch area, situated at 62-52-30N 40-45-45E in the Plesetsk ICBM Complex,* consists of a launch site under construction and a probable site support facility and has been designated as Launch Area F (Figure 1). The area lies in wooded terrain between two roads, 2 nautical miles (nm) west-southwest of Launch Area D, 3.4 nm southeast of the Plesetsk complex support facility, and 16.4 nm northeast of the town of Plesetsk.

The area was first observed and identified on photography of late [redacted] [redacted] and can be negated in [redacted] [redacted] It was covered in early [redacted] [redacted] but because of cloud cover and haze only some earth scarring was discernible. The latest coverage of the area, in early [redacted] showed no change in the launch site or support facility.

The launch site (Figure 2) is enclosed by a single security fence (not shown) and is served by an access road that enters at the

southwest corner of the site and then branches to form a large loop. Two launch pads, 660 feet apart from center to center, are unequal in size, unsurfaced, and appear to be still under construction. Inboard of each launch pad is a large earth revetment and a [redacted] building; the western end of each of these buildings appears to be raised higher than the roof level of the remainder of the building. Situated between the pads and equidistant from the center of each is a building with a possible clerestory. These three buildings are served by a plus-shaped road network. Across the loop road to the west of the launch pads are two small buildings, 490 feet apart. Adjacent to the southwest corner of the site are three buildings and a parking apron.

The small probable support facility, situated on the access road 4,490 feet southwest of the center of the launch site, contains three barracks-type buildings, 95 by 30 feet, and three smaller buildings.

LAUNCH SITE 5C1, KY/VMTC

Launch Site 5C1, situated at 48-32-40N 46-17-40E in Launch Complex C of KY/VMTC (Figure 3),** has a general overall configuration that resembles the new Plesetsk SSM launch site.

The site can be negated on photography of [redacted] [redacted] was in the early stages of construction in [redacted] [redacted] the midstage in [redacted] and was considered complete in [redacted] [redacted]

Enclosed by a double security fence, Launch

Site 5C1 contains two equal-sized pads situated on a large loop road (Figure 4). The pad separation is 760 feet, center to center, and each pad measures 355 by 65 feet overall with a center launch position measuring 70 by 65 feet. While under construction in [redacted] the pads measured 290 by 90 feet. A small bunker, 40 by 25 feet, is offset inboard of each launch pad and a 135- by 60-foot control bunker is centrally located 380 feet from the center of each pad. Numerous other bunkers and structures are scattered throughout the launch site. The road width within the site is 30 feet, and the radius of the turns is 150 feet.

The support area of Launch Complex C is 5.5 nm northwest by road.

*Further information on this complex is contained in NPIC/R-272/64. 13/

**Further information on this complex is contained in NPIC/R-84/63. 14/

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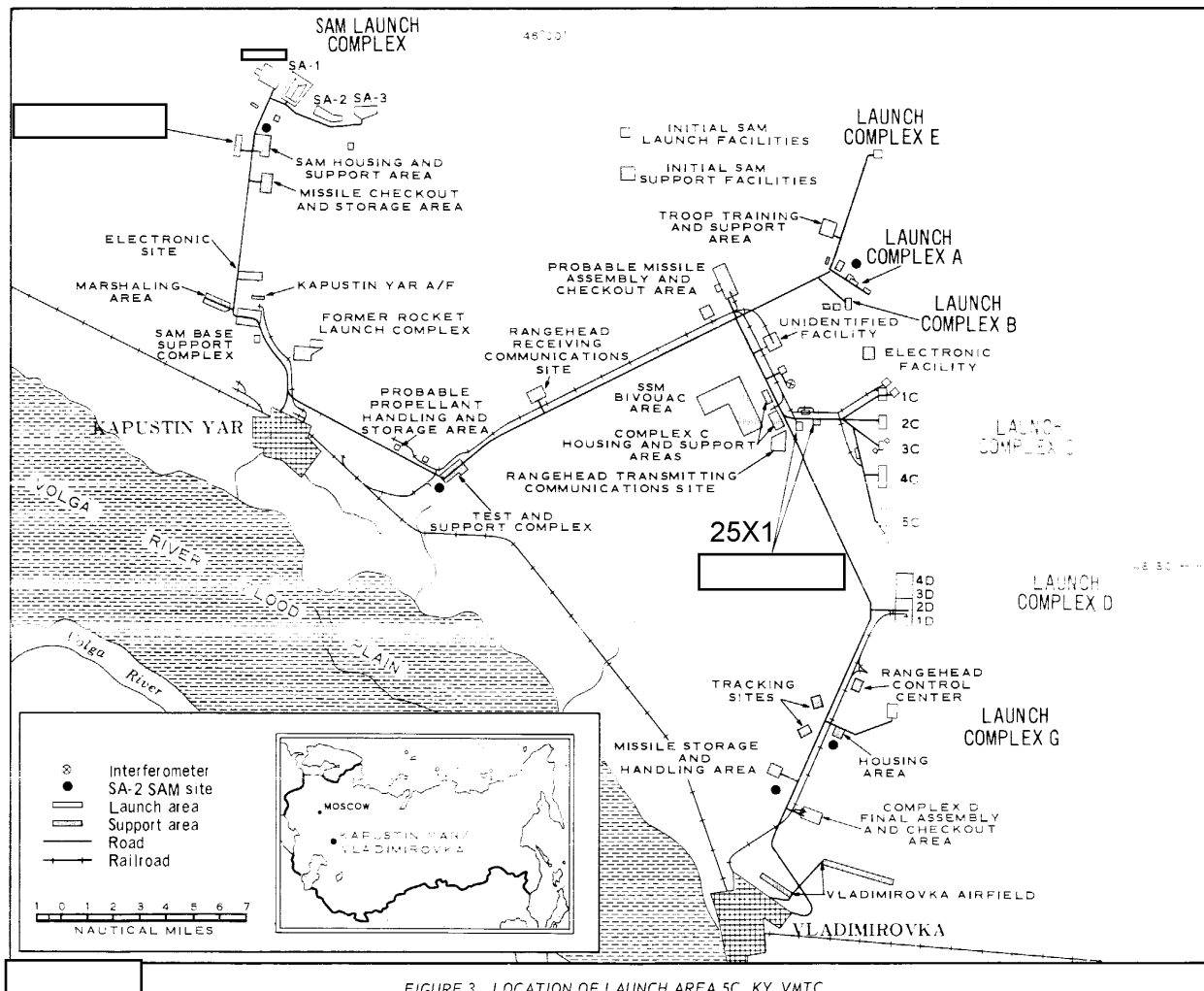


FIGURE 3. LOCATION OF LAUNCH AREA 5C, KY VMTC.

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FIGURE 4. LAUNCH SITE 5C1, KY/VMTC.

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LAUNCH SITE 1, GUANAJAY

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The Guanajay IRBM Complex was situated southwest of Havana and consisted of two launch sites.* Launch Site 1, 2.5 nm east-northeast of Guanajay at 22-57-00N 82-39-25W (Figure 5), is considered in this report because it was the site nearest completion when abandoned.

Construction of the site was started in [redacted] and progressed

rapidly until [redacted] when the site was observed in the process of being destroyed and abandoned.**

The launch site (Figure 6) consisted of four launch pads arranged in two offset pairs, each pad measuring 300 by 100 feet overall when under construction and later having a [redacted] wide, hexagonally shaped concrete launch

*Further information on this complex is contained in MIS/26-63. 15/

**Details on construction chronology are contained in NPIC/R-1449/63. 16/

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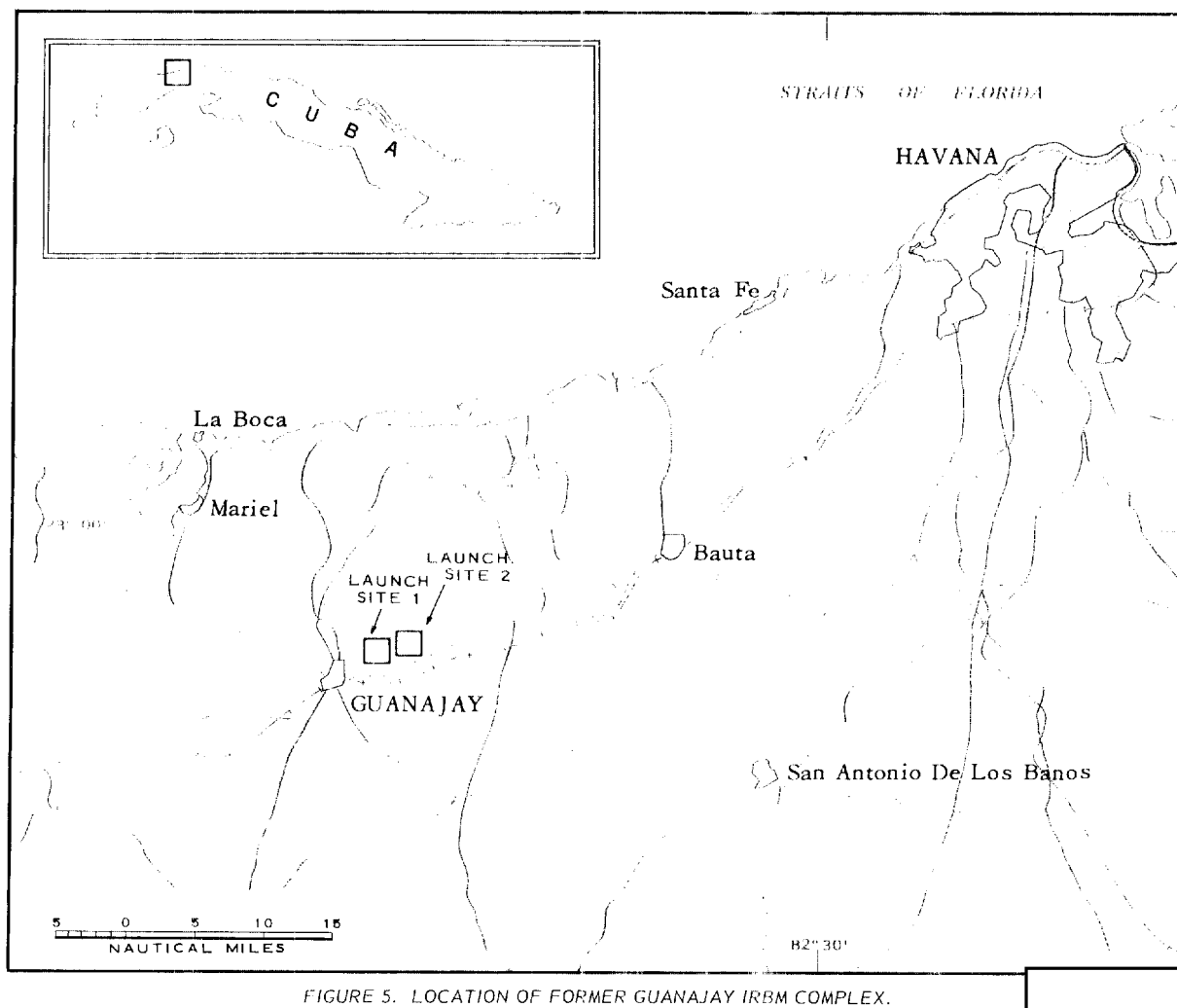
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position. The approximate pad separation at each pair, center to center, was [REDACTED]. Centrally located between each pair of pads was a [REDACTED] control building which was connected to each pad by a small conduit that ended at a retaining wall abutting the inboard side of the pad. From the retaining wall, a large conduit extended to a terminal room

beneath the pad. A launch ring with an opening in its center was positioned on the pad above the terminal room.

Because the site was never completed, a normal site support facility was not established and support for the site came from the immediately adjacent construction support tent area.



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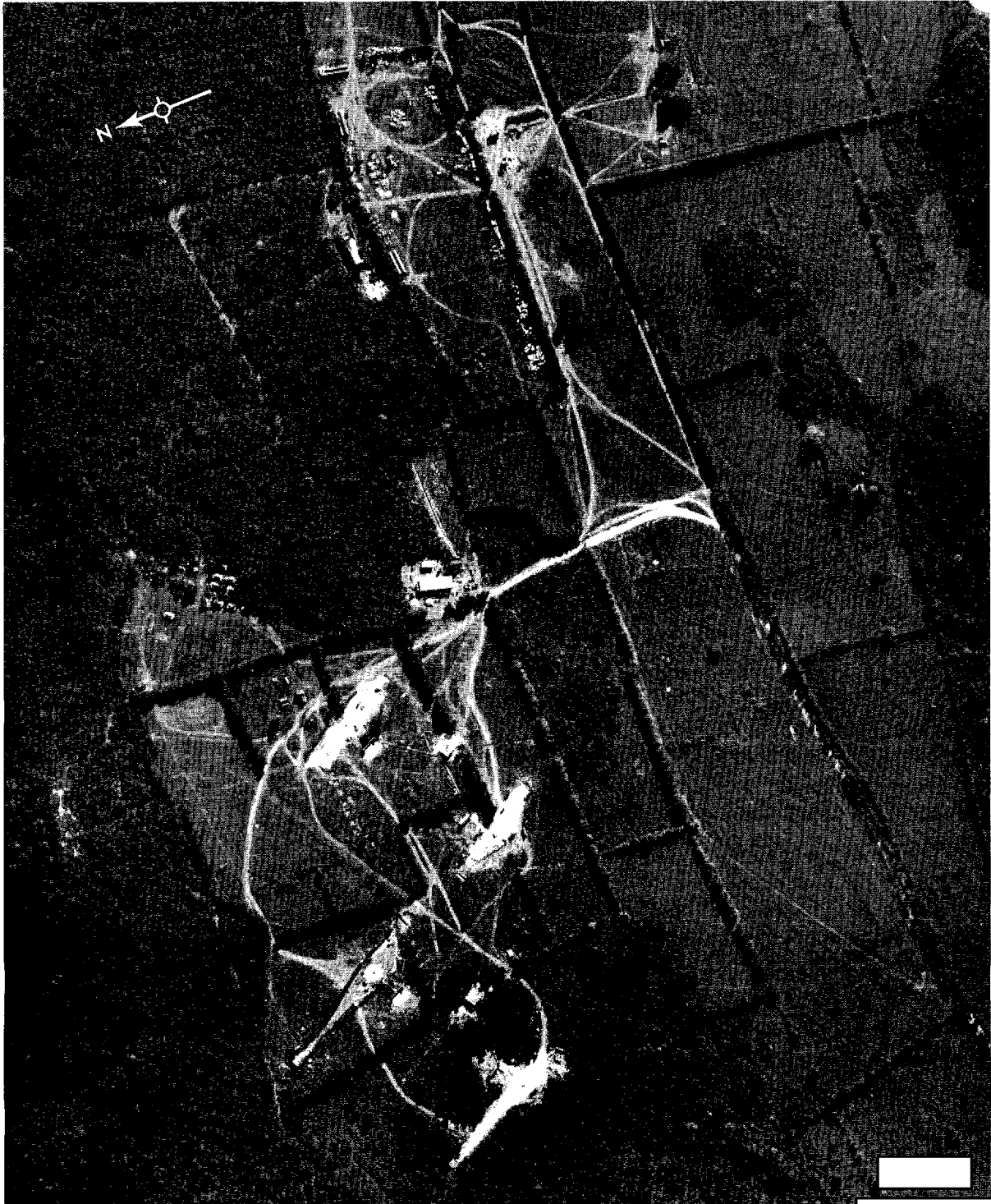
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FIGURE 6. LAUNCH SITE 1, GUANAJAY.

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Table 1. Comparative Data on Launch Facilities Under Discussion

Facility	General Layout	Pad Separation (ft)	Pad Dimensions (ft)	Pad Orientation (degrees)	Trenching Ditching Cabling	Construction Timing	Support Facility	Possible Targets
Launch Area F, Plesetsk ICBM Complex	Two pads on large loop road with building inboard of each pad and radio building centered between the pads	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	None discernible	[REDACTED]	4,000 feet SW of center of launch site	Within 2,000 nm: Thule, Greenland; most of Europe and British Isles; Cairo, Egypt; Suez Canal
Launch Site 501, KY AMTC	Two pads on large loop road with small office bunker inboard of each pad and control bunker centered between pads				Ditching runs from a control center between Launch Sites 501 and 502 to control bunker between pads at 501		2.5 nm by road to Launch Complex C support area	1,050 nm; Sary-Sagant; 2,000 nm; Bears E
Launch Site 1, Guanajay ICBM Complex	Two pairs of pads, offset, with control building centered between each pair				Conduit runs from control building to each launch pad		Construction support area approximately 3,000 feet SE of launch site	Within 2,000 nm: nearly all US; pads at launching all Mexico; NW part of South America

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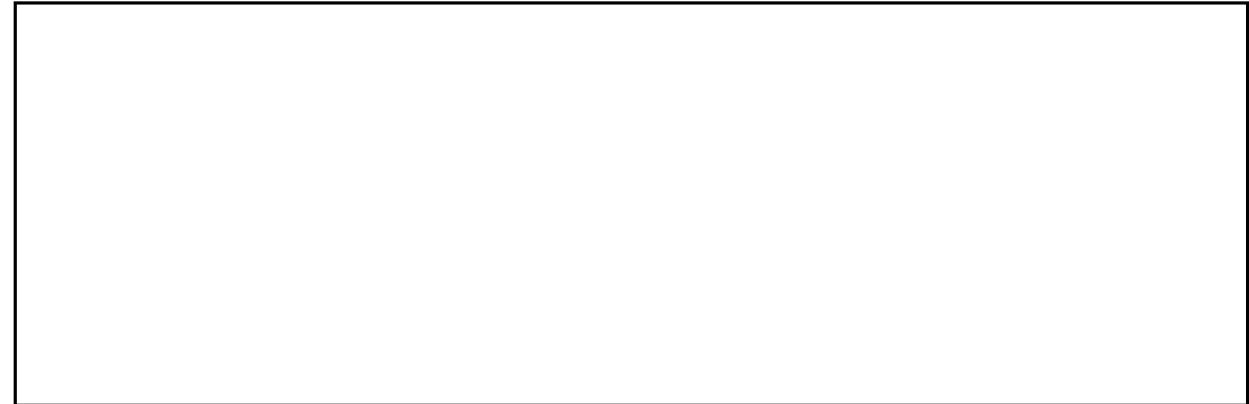
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NPIC PROJECT

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